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Teen first one chosen for torch relay

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
Metro Canada

OLYMPICS A Vancouver teenager is the first person selected to carry the 2010 Olympic torch, the event's sponsor announced yesterday.

Patricia Moreno, 18, will be one of about 12,000 torchbearers chosen by a panel of experts assembled by Coca-Cola to carry the flame during its 106-day journey across Canada.



Patricia Moreno

"I feel overwhelmed, there's so much to think about," Moreno said from Toronto where the announcement was made. "I feel more special every minute."

Kirsten Mihailides, a spokesperson for Coke, said Moreno was chosen because she is a "great example of Canadian youth."

"She's a volunteer, she leads an active lifestyle and she's a great ambassador for the torchbearer program," Mihailides said.

For information on how to become a torchbearer, visit icoke.ca

VIDEO Vancouver student named first torchbearer for 2010 Games at metronews.ca/canada

United States Presidential Inauguration

- Special coverage, pages 5-6
- Lawrence Martin, page 7
- Charles Davies, page 8

• More exclusive coverage online at metronews.ca



U.S. president-elect Barack Obama helps paint the walls at the Sasha Bruce House, a shelter for teens yesterday in Washington, D.C. Obama stopped at Sasha Bruce House to promote his "Day of Service" program. His highly anticipated inauguration is today.

Painting a new American future

Washington abuzz over Obama's historic inauguration

Redemption for America, a clean slate for the world, and the burden of the ages for Barack Obama, who assumes the presidency today with a constellation of expectations and challenges few, if any, have known before.

Fanfare months in the making will peak at one minute before noon, when Obama is to speak the 35-word oath of office.

America's 44th president will proceed immediately to his crucial first order of business — a 17-minute address that will set the tone for his era.

A succession of polls suggests Obama will enter of-

United States Presidential Inauguration

fice with the wind at his back, ensured of a long honeymoon. But presidential scholars say just hours from now, he will begin to experience the rude awakening inherent to the world's most powerful position.

The inauguration is "a ritual of reaffirmation that combines the worlds of the sacred and the profane — in other words, religion and politics," said Donald Kennon, chief historian with the U.S. Capitol His-

torical Society.

The sacred will be seen in the prayers of invocation and benediction that will enwrap the midday ceremony.

The festival continues through a luncheon with 200 of Obama's new friends in Congress and the new president leading a tickertape parade along Pennsylvania Avenue.

A CNN poll yesterday showed 69 per cent of African-Americans believe an Obama presidency means Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Dream" has come to pass — twice as many as one year ago. Yesterday, Americans celebrated Mar-

tin Luther King Day.

The mantra of change is already evident on the normally vanilla streets of downtown Washington, which is transforming with each passing hour to something more akin to New York City.

It is teeming as never before, and this time with people of all shapes, sizes and colours.

"This is a joyous time," said Celia Jones, 55, from the city's southeast.

"This wasn't our part of town. But that was the old Washington. The new Washington is for everyone."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Call for a ride, city says

TRANSIT As the transit strike stretches into the sixth week, the city is encouraging people who are having serious difficulty getting around to call for help.

"Many have developed other ways to cope, but at this point it may be becoming more critical for some people," said Aaron Burry, the city's general manager of recreation and community services. "We certainly don't want seniors venturing out to appointments and so on and putting themselves at risk."

The city is offering a number of transportation options to mitigate the impact of the strike and is encouraging people to call 311, if they need help.

The city would then connect them to the nearest community health resource centre that is coordinating transportation needs.

Last week, the city distributed around 10,500 taxi chits to social service agencies to help people get out to medical appointments and go get groceries.

"We're trying to help people that are most in need," he said.

"It's for people who can't go to get groceries, can't go to a key medical appointment. Rather than have them try to get on without transportation, we try to connect them to the services that are available."

Today, Burry said they will be updating councillors on how the social impact mitigation strategies have worked and what they are anticipating as the strike continues.

METRO OTTAWA
MORE COVERAGE PG 2

ShareYourViews

ottawalatters@metronews.ca

Local



Hintonburg launches art map

The Hintonburg Community Association arts committee recently launched the Hintonburg Arts Map. The map features 22 venues, including galleries, artists' studios, a private home, a knitting and weaving shop, and restaurants that regularly display original art work, most of which is by Hintonburg artists.

METRO OTTAWA

uOttawa sets up program for aid during strike

STUDENTS The University of Ottawa has created a free, temporary housing program for students who are having difficulty getting to their classes during the transit strike.

The program, co-ordinated by uOttawa's housing services, will put students in contact with city residents and university employees who live within walking distance of either of the two campuses and who are willing to open their homes to students for temporary residence. It will also put students in touch with volunteers who are able to provide daily transportation to the university or to one of the shuttle pick-up points. The program is free to students.

Students interested in finding housing or people who can offer a ride to the university or to the free shuttle pickup points can call the university's off-campus housing services at 613-564-5400, ext. 5057

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA.

Soldier joyful in job: Padre

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

It took Brian Good a while to find his dream job.

He was 40 years old when he joined the Canadian Forces as a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

It was a career move, said Capt. Rev. Felix Tachie, that Good had been thinking about for years. Finally, in October 2005, the Ottawa native was accepted as a recruit.

Yesterday, as Trooper Brian Richard Good was laid to rest in the Canadian Military Cemetery, Tachie, an RCD Padre, recalled a conversation the two had while on a training exercise in Texas where Good spoke about how much he enjoyed what he was doing.

"With a joy in his face, he told me how he looked forward to serving his



Pallbearers carry the casket for Trooper Brian Richard Good following the funeral in Vanier yesterday. Good, who was laid to rest in the Canadian Military Cemetery, was killed in Afghanistan on Jan. 7 after an explosive device blew up near his armoured vehicle.

country in Afghanistan," Tachie told family, friends and dignitaries at Good's funeral.

Good died Jan. 7, when an explosive device blew up near his armoured vehicle while he was serving

in Afghanistan.

Many family members, friends and dignitaries joined his wife Sandra and

daughters Jessica, 14, and Kayla, 13, for the ceremony in the Sacred Space at the Beechwood Cemetery.

While struggling to hold back tears, Stephen Good remembered his younger brother as a generous daredevil who was always ready to pitch in to help anybody.

"Brian was his own person. He didn't try to be like anybody else. He didn't dwell on the past and an uncertain future and certainly passed his last day very much in the present," he said in the eulogy.

"We will remember Brian. Rest easy, brother, you will always be our trooper."

Stephen Good said the family was touched to see all the people who reached out to them and who lined the route streets and the Highway of Heroes that Brian's body travelled as it returned home.

Open Lansdowne bid: Coun.

PROPOSAL The quartet of developers proposing to redevelop Lansdowne Park should be subject to a competitive process here, said Capital Ward Coun. Clive Doucet.

Next month, city staff will report on the Lansdowne Live proposal put forward last October by Shenkman Group chairman Bill Shenkman, Minto chairman and CEO Roger Greenberg, Trinity Development Group president John Ruddy and Ottawa 67's owner Jeff Hunt.

The proposal included a hotel, commercial space and amphitheatre and a redesigned sports stadium that would host a new football franchise.

Doucet is attempting to rally support to restart an international design competi-

Awaiting review

• The partners in the Lansdowne Live bid issued a statement saying they were looking forward to discussing their proposal with members of council but would not comment further on Doucet's assertions until after the city staff has completed its review.

tion for Lansdowne Park that was initiated in 2007, and then suspended in May.

"It is inconceivable to me that we would put a world heritage site out to four developers for a shopping centre," said Doucet. "We should not be deciding the fate of Lansdowne Park based on 10 football games a year."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Massage clinic owner has right to work despite charges, says lawyer

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

The owner of an Ottawa massage clinic shouldn't have her business licence suspended on the basis of an unproven criminal charge, her lawyer said yesterday.

The city's licence committee is looking at the chief licence inspector's recommendation to suspend the business licence for Angel's Touch Massage Clinic on Bentley Avenue, pending criminal code charges of keeping a common bawdy-house.

But attorney Rodney Sellar, who is representing own-

Timeline

• While the alleged incidents took place between April and July 2008, it could be October or November before there is a

trial, said lawyer Rodney Sellar. Sellar meets with the Crown on Feb. 2 to determine whether the issue will go to trial.

er Angela Davis, told the committee yesterday that because his client has not been convicted, the suspension should not occur, as it would affect her livelihood. Police have also not provided any evidence to back up the allegation, he said.

"It's a poor reason to suspend someone's employment," said Sellar. "We have the presumption of innocence."

While Davis "has full intention of proceeding to the trial," she has been in business for 10 years with no problems and denies the charges, Sellar said. Sellar told the committee he has advertisements for the business, website ads and Yellow Pages listings for the business, proving its legitimacy.

The committee voted to adjourn the matter until the next meeting on Feb. 6.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Stephen Harper calls Obama presidency a step forward in Canada-U.S. relations at metronews.ca/canada

Video Vancouver student named first torch bearer for

2010 Games at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Political Stripes tackles Ignatieff's mixed messages on taxes

Lotteries KENO Pick 3

Ontario Pick 3: 8 6 2; Ontario Pick 4: 0 7 7 3

Encore: 3289187

Daily Keno: 8, 10, 12, 14, 20, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 34, 47, 49, 50, 55, 60, 61, 62, 69.

These results are not official.

J.J. SAID
IT WOULD!

J.J. Clarke

ctvottawa.ca

CTV
NEWS

OTTAWA'S WEATHER LEADER

Man escapes tanning-bed fire

A Regina man who had been working on his tan when his tanning bed burst into flames escaped without major injuries. Jason Viles was inside the tanning bed yesterday morning when he heard a pop, smelled smoke and found himself locked in the bed. He escaped by kicking out a stereo and crawling out the back. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Deficit must be moderate: Iggy

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said yesterday that any deficits incurred in the upcoming budget must be temporary, but refused to put a dollar figure on what he would consider too large. Speaking after a caucus meeting yesterday, Ignatieff said Canadians are allergic to deficits and that any deficit in the budget set to be tabled Jan. 27 should be temporary, modest and moderate. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

'Dirty oil' image a challenge: Ambassador

The increasing perception of Canada as both "foreign" and a "purveyor of dirty oil" is a challenge for the country with the new Obama administration, says Canada's ambassador to the United States.

On the eve of the inauguration of U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, Michael Wilson yesterday

United States

Presidential Inauguration

told a luncheon crowd it's something his embassy staff must work to change with White House officials and members of Congress. It's relevant, he told the

Friends with benefits

• An expert panel that delivered a detailed blueprint to the Conservative government on how it should approach the

Obama administration says the key is to shelve the complaints and offer bold, "mutually beneficial" initiatives.

Canadian Club of Toronto, because Obama is committed to climate change and

working to "move away from oil — and especially foreign oil — to cleaner

forms of energy."

Canada is the No. 1 energy exporter to the U.S., ahead of Saudi Arabia and Mexico.

"This image (of Canada) is fed in part from negative perceptions of the Canadian oilsands industry," said Wilson, speaking at a downtown Toronto hotel. "But it also stems

from a general under-appreciation in the United States of Canada's considerable efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to increase renewable energy production, (as well as) a general under-appreciation of just how much our two economies are linked."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Shawn Hennessey and his wife, Christine, enter Provincial Court in Edmonton yesterday morning. Hennessey and brother-in-law Dennis Cheeseman pleaded guilty to four counts of manslaughter in the deaths of four RCMP officers.

Pair pleads guilty to aiding Mayerthorpe cop-killer

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
Metro Canada

EDMONTON A gun that became part of cop-hater James Roszko's small arsenal in an ambush was wiped clean and put into a bag by two men accused of assisting him in the murder of four Mounties.

That was only one piece in mounting evidence from a court-agreed statement of facts that led to Shawn Hennessey, 29, and Dennis Cheeseman, 25, quietly admitting their part in the brutal 2005 quadruple-murder, sharing a bench in a jam-packed courtroom yesterday morning.

The pair pleaded guilty to four counts of

manslaughter in the deaths of the officers, who were raiding Roszko's Mayerthorpe, Alta., area marijuana grow-op on March 3, 2005, before the gunman opened fire.

The brothers-in-law were initially charged with first-degree murder after their arrests in July 2007, but agreed to plead to lesser charges.

"Obviously, they helped him," Cheeseman's long-time friend, Vicky Marsh told Metro exclusively after hearing the news of plea. "To the exact extent and why, we don't know. To me, that's the big question. I think they're taking responsibility for what they might have done, or caused."

News in brief

PIPELINE Ottawa has offered financial support for a \$16.2-billion Arctic gas pipeline, the federal Environment minister said yesterday, aiming to revive a struggling proposal to tap vast northern reserves with industry conditions worsening.

POLITICS NDP Leader Jack Layton is vowing to try to topple the minority Conservatives over next week's budget even as the Liberals — his partners in the opposition coalition — preach a wait-and-see attitude.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OLG Slots at Rideau Carleton Raceway - Your Mini Holiday!

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Must be 19 years of age or older. Valid government-issued photo identification may be required. No purchase necessary. Must be in attendance to win. Please visit the Winner's Circle Rewards desk for complete rules and regulations. *Open to female Winner's Circle Rewards members only. Limit one package per member per promotional Thursday. Hourly cash draws held at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. each Thursday. Grand Prize draws held on January 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2009 at 9:00 p.m. Coupon package available until 8:00 p.m. or while supplies last.

Costa Rican authorities called off their search yesterday for victims of landslides from a deadly earthquake 11 days ago. Rescue teams have pulled 23 bodies from the Poas volcano region, where waves of earth buried cars and crushed homes during a 6.1 magnitude quake Jan. 8. Seven people are still missing. **REUTERS**

World



'Mega brothels' worry UK clerics

Church of England dioceses are to call for a government crackdown on human trafficking in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics to prevent a repeat of the "mega brothels" set up in German cities for the 2006 World Cup. The church members pointed to the World Cup in Germany, where, they said, city officials adopted a "pragmatic" approach toward catering for the sexual desires of the estimated three million football fans who attended the tournament. **REUTERS**

Gaza devastated as forces leave

More Israeli forces left the Gaza Strip yesterday after a 22-day assault on Hamas militants, and both sides kept a ceasefire, allowing dazed Palestinians to survey the destruction and mourn their dead.

In Jabalya refugee camp, the scene of heavy fighting, not a house was unscathed. Huge piles of uncollected garbage rotted on street corners. Children scavenged for empty plastic bottles.

Israeli sources said most troops would be out of Gaza by today — and that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was expected to visit the same day.

A spokesman for Hamas's armed wing, his face masked by a chequered Arab scarf, vowed it would replenish its arsenal of rockets and other

weapons, in defiance of any efforts to cut off smuggling routes.

"Do whatever you want, bringing in and manufacturing the holy weapons is our mission, and we know how to acquire weapons," the spokesman, Abu Ubaida, told a news conference.

Israel and Hamas separately declared ceasefires on Sunday, with Hamas demanding an Israeli pullout within a week.

Troops and tanks poured into Gaza on Jan. 3 to try to quell Hamas rocket attacks after a week-long Israeli air campaign.

A Hamas official said 5,000 homes, 16 government buildings and 20 mosques were destroyed and 20,000 houses damaged. Israel has said militants used mosques as weapons depots. **REUTERS**



Palestinian boys stand atop an Israeli army rocket launcher left behind after Israeli forces left Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. More Israeli forces left the Gaza Strip after a 22-day assault on Hamas militants, and both sides kept a ceasefire.

Guantanamo court convenes amid confusion

TRIAL The Guantanamo war crimes court convened in a chaotic session yesterday with accused 9-11 plotters disrupting the proceedings while lawyers debated whether an administrative hiccup had left them facing any charges at all.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of 9-11, tried unsuccessfully to banish all Americans from his defence table in the courtroom and complained when the judge asked him to limit his comments.

The immediate question facing judges was whether the defendants still faced charges, which were all dropped in December and refiled in order to refresh the jury pool. **REUTERS**

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Slain Chechen girl's lawyer shot dead

MOSCOW A prominent lawyer who had opposed the early release of a Russian army officer convicted of murdering a Chechen girl was shot dead yesterday not far from the Kremlin, prosecutors said.

Stanislav Markelov acted for the family of 18-year-old Elza Kungayeva, whose murder in 2000 became a symbol of human rights abuses in the region.

Markelov, 34, had led attempts to block the early release of Russian Col. Yuri Budanov, who was convicted of her murder. Protests arose last month when a court ruled Budanov should be released.

Markelov's body was found with several gunshot wounds on a busy street, prosecutors said. He had just given a briefing to reporters.

Kungayeva's murder in 2000 provoked a storm of protest in Chechnya. Her family said she had been raped and murdered in a drunken rampage by Russian troops.

Budanov was arrested in

Death threats

- Kungayeva's father told the Ekho Moskvyy radio station that Markelov had received death threats on his mobile phone over recent days.

2000, charged with her murder and later jailed for 10 years, the highest-ranking Russian officer to be imprisoned for war crimes in Chechnya. He was freed early last Thursday. **REUTERS**

Recession raises health risks: WHO

HEALTH Global recession may lead many governments to reduce investment in basic health care, putting at risk the lives of vulnerable mothers and babies, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

WHO director-general Margaret Chan said the world's economic woes could set back public health campaigns meant to eliminate diseases, tackle the root causes of poverty and save the lives of mothers and babies.

The crisis will also make people use public health services instead of private ones, adding to the demands on public services.

"The crisis comes at a fragile time for public health ... Women and young children are among the first to be affected by a

deterioration in financial circumstances and food availability," Chan told a meeting at the WHO's Geneva headquarters.

Chan raised concerns that "already vastly overstretched and underfunded" health systems will fail to detect and treat conditions such as cancer and heart disease that are increasingly common in developing countries." **REUTERS**

News in brief

DISEASE Children in the U.S. increasingly are developing serious head and neck infections with a drug-resistant type of "superbug" bacteria called MRSA, U.S. researchers said. Rates of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, are rising in children, and researchers called on doctors to be more judicious in prescribing antibiotics. While only 12 per cent of child staph infections studied in 2001 showed antibiotic resistance, that number more than doubled to 28 per cent in just five years. Nearly 60 per cent of infections were contracted outside hospitals, and most infected children's ears. **REUTERS**

News websites brace for barrage of viewers

Sites like CNN.com and other major television networks are planning to offer streaming Internet video of the event, but warn that users could experience slower than normal responses from their websites because of increased traffic. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Presidential Inauguration



Lincoln Bible

The same Bible used by Abraham Lincoln, left, will be used by Barack Obama as he is sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

• Morning worship service

Like every U.S. president-elect since Franklin D. Roosevelt, Barack Obama will tip off Inauguration Day with a morning worship service — most likely a private affair for him and his family and friends — at a church in D.C.

• Procession to the Capitol

U.S. President George W. Bush and his wife Laura Bush will join Obama and his wife, Michelle, for the motorcade procession to the Capitol — and undoubtedly fantastic conversation.

• Vice-president's swearing-in

Since he'll fade into the background the second the new administration



THE DAY'S EVENTS

takes its place, vice-president-elect Joe Biden gets the first turn being sworn into office on the steps of the Capitol.

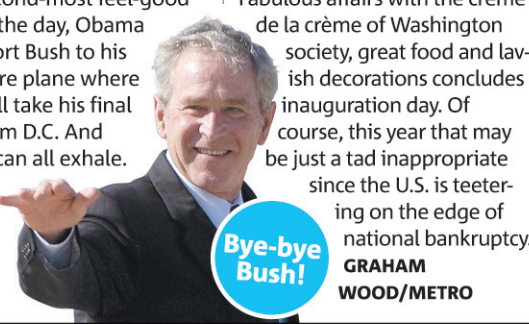
• President's swearing-in, inaugural address

The main event is next up with Obama swearing the oath of office, then addressing

the country and affirming for one last time all the promises he's made.

• Departure of the outgoing president

In the second-most feel-good event of the day, Obama will escort Bush to his departure plane where Bush will take his final leave from D.C. And then we can all exhale.



Bye-bye Bush!

GRAHAM WOOD/METRO



• Inaugural parade

The city will go crazy as bands, floats and military personnel celebrate down Pennsylvania Avenue while Obama will watch from a secure post.

• Inaugural balls

Fabulous affairs with the crème de la crème of Washington society, great food and lavish decorations concludes inauguration day. Of course, this year that may be just a tad inappropriate since the U.S. is teetering on the edge of national bankruptcy.

\$50M

Amount D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty predicts will be needed to cover costs associated with the inauguration. Congress has already approved \$15 million.

BY THE NUMBERS

2.5M

Number of people city officials expect in the city to celebrate inauguration festivities.

5,000

Number of portable toilets to be available to revelers on the National Mall.

22

Number of hours D.C.'s subway system will be running rush-hour service — from 4 a.m. to 2 a.m. — on Inauguration Day.

10 facts to take to the bar ... U.S. presidents

1 George Washington's salary as president was \$25,000 US — George W. Bush's was \$400,000 US.



2 Theodore Roosevelt became the first president awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906.

3 George W. Bush was the 43rd president, but there actually have only been 42 presidents: Cleveland was elected for two nonconsecutive terms and is counted twice, as the 22nd and 24th president.

4 The oldest president ever elected was Ronald Reagan (1981-89). The 40th president took office at the age of 69.



5 Twenty-six presidents were lawyers before becoming president.

6 Andrew Jackson was the first president to survive an assassination attempt.

7 Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09) was the youngest president to ever serve. He was elected vice-president on a ticket with president William McKinley, but in September 1901 a deranged anarchist shot McKinley twice in Buffalo, New York, and Roosevelt assumed the top office at 42.



8 Bill Clinton was the first U.S. Democratic president to win re-election since Franklin D. Roosevelt.



9 The first and only president for a day was David Atchison. Zachary Taylor was a staunch Episcopalian and refused to be sworn in on a Sunday.

10 James Madison was president when the British entered Washington and set fire to the White House during the War of 1812.

Network coverage

CBC and CBC Newsworld

• Starting at 11 a.m., Peter Mansbridge hosts inauguration coverage. Live coverage of the parade starts at 2 p.m.

CTV

• Lloyd Robertson hosts a live special starting at 10 a.m., with commentary from Frank McKenna and Eleanor Clift, former White House correspondent for Newsweek.

Global

• Kevin Newman quarterback's coverage with a live Global News special starting at 11 a.m.

U.S. networks

• All three main U.S. networks as well as CNN start airing live from Washington at 10 a.m. ABC has Dianne Sawyer, Charles Gibson and George Stephanopoulos hosting. CBS' coverage is helmed by Katie Couric. NBC's Brian Williams and Tom Brokaw lead their coverage, while MSNBC has Keith Olbermann, Rachel Maddow. CNN has Wolf Blitzer and Anderson Cooper.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Address to focus on responsibility

Barack Obama's inauguration address will call on Americans to embrace a new era of responsible behaviour — in government and in business.

Obama's speech today will ask the country to reject the "culture of anything goes."

Obama will ask Ameri-

cans to restore a national value system that honours responsibility and accountability. It harkens back to John F. Kennedy's call for personal sacrifice in his 1960 inauguration address.

Obama wrote the bulk of the speech, press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

George W. Bush's 2005

"I don't think you're going to be surprised by what you hear."

David Axelrod, adviser

inaugural speech ran 21 minutes.

Obama's speech is ex-

pected to run about 15 to 20 minutes, according to ABC, which is on the short side compared to most inaugural addresses.

David Axelrod, Obama's senior adviser, said the speech would be consistent with the themes that Obama has emphasized throughout the campaign.

"I don't think you're going to be surprised by what you hear," he said. "I think he's going to talk about where we are as a country, but also who we are as a people and what responsibilities accrue to us as a result of that, and what we have to do to move forward." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Riding the wave of public approval a heavy burden to bear

RATINGS As Barack Obama takes the oath of office today, with one of the highest approval ratings in history, the weight of a nation's hope is on his shoulders.

It's not just an abstract hope, but often, a very personal one. His well-wishers feel a palpable tie to the presidency, in a way that has seldom been seen in a political system that has steadily declined in its citizens' confidence.

"I have a daughter who lost her job with Ford (Motor Company), and she's struggling," says Laura Clark of Dunbar, W.Va., one of America's poorer



The public was still able to get fairly close to the inauguration site yesterday during the Martin Luther King holiday celebrations.

states. "I just hope he'll create the conditions that will get her a job. I think he'll be able to do it be-

cause he's capable of bringing everyone together to accomplish the most important goals."

Clark is not alone in that wish. The shattered economy is on most people's minds. And Obama's image of steadiness, stability and reasoned optimism has captured their confidence, drawing record numbers to Washington for today's inauguration ceremony. According to a Gallup poll this week, a whopping 83 per cent approve the way he's handled his transition to authority, and 78 per cent view him favourably, one of the highest ratings the

opinion sampling company has recorded in recent decades. By comparison, only 17 per cent expect George W. Bush to be remembered as an above average president as he leaves office, and a scant 22 per cent say they approved of his eight-year term. For some, Obama symbolizes the hope for cleansing and renewal. For others, he is simply a welcome respite from eight long years.

But says Tawanda Wright of Chicago: "My biggest fear that his term won't be long enough. I think he needs at least 12 (years)."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Presidential Inauguration

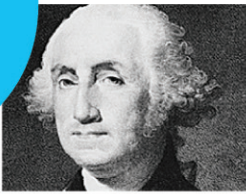
The good, the bad and the most unfortunate

History's unforgettable moments — and those not worth remembering

5 inaugurations you would have wanted to attend ...

● George Washington, 1789

To see what a president should really look like: Washington wore white tights with silver shoe buckles and carried a steel-hilted sword.



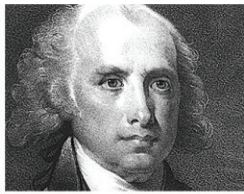
● Thomas Jefferson, 1801

To shake the president's hand: Jefferson broke precedent by mingling among spectators instead of riding in a carriage to his inauguration.



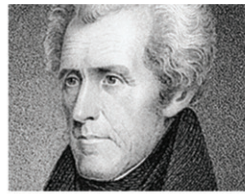
● James Madison, 1809

To get cheap tickets: Remember when \$4 would buy you a ticket to the inaugural ball? Well, maybe not, but that was the going rate for Madison's soirée. Today, it would cost an arm and a leg.



● Andrew Jackson, 1829

To get good gossip: After a particularly brutal campaign, outgoing president John Quincy Adams spitefully skipped out on the festivities.



● Franklin Pierce, 1853

To witness a presidential spurning: Pierce was the first of two presidents to "affirm" the oath of office instead of "swear" it, and he placed his hand on a law book instead of a Bible. METRO



... and five inaugurations you're glad you missed

● Ulysses S. Grant, 1873

Because who serves frozen food at an inaugural ball?: Grant's inauguration fell on the coldest March 4 on record. The building where the ball was held had no heat or insulation. The food froze on the tables.



● William H. Taft, 1909

Because you would have gotten stuck in a blizzard: The inauguration was forced indoors as winds toppled trees and telephone poles, trains stalled and streets were shut down. Crews cleared 58,000 tons of snow and slush.



● Woodrow Wilson, 1913

Because no one wanted to party: Grieving the loss of his son, the newly sworn-in president Wilson cancelled the inaugural ball because he felt it was inappropriate for what should be a solemn occasion.



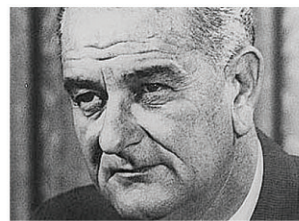
● Herbert Hoover, 1929

Because everyone was too poor to party: On the brink of the Great Depression, officials suspended the inaugural ball for a much more modest charity ball. Nothing like bread lines to kill the mood.



● Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963

Because you would have missed it anyway: After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Johnson was administered the oath of office on an airplane. There were no ceremonies until he was officially elected in 1965. METRO



10 things you never knew ...

1 Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 in 1937. Before that, Inauguration Day was March 4.

2 George Washington delivered the shortest inauguration speech in history — at only 135 words — during his second inauguration in 1793.

3 James Buchanan's inauguration in 1857 was the first to be photographed.

4 African-Americans first marched in the inaugural parade at **Abraham Lincoln's** second swearing-in in 1865.

5 Women participated for the first time in an inaugural parade during **Woodrow Wilson's** second inauguration in 1917.



6 Calvin Coolidge was sworn in by former president William Taft, who had become the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, in 1925.

7 John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic to become president.

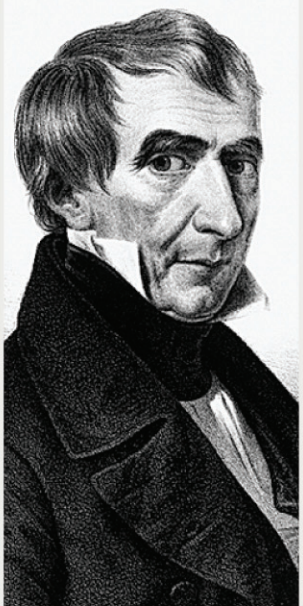
8 Gerald Ford was the first unelected vice-president to become president.



9 Ronald Reagan's first inauguration was the warmest inauguration day on record. His second inauguration was the coldest.

10 Bill Clinton's inauguration was the first to be broadcast live on the Internet. METRO

SOURCE: JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES



William H. Harrison

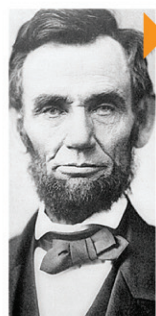
Dumbest president?

William H. Harrison wore no winter gear at all to his inauguration in 1841. He delivered the longest inauguration address on record in the cold and wet 9 C weather. A month later, he died of pneumonia. The illness is said to have been brought on by overexposure to the weather on his inauguration day. METRO

True words of wisdom



"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States."
George Washington



"With malice toward none, with charity for all ... let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."
Abraham Lincoln



"Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."
John F. Kennedy



"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
Franklin D. Roosevelt



"The tragic events of the 30 months of vital turmoil through which we have just passed have made us citizens of the world. There can be no turning back."
Woodrow Wilson

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Comment

Obama: Reversing a spiral

National Report



Lawrence Martin

Behold the lesson from the ones who are most remembered. To be an exceptional leader, you have to be an exceptional communicator. That's the Lincoln lesson, the Roosevelt lesson, the Kennedy lesson, the Reagan lesson and the Trudeau lesson.

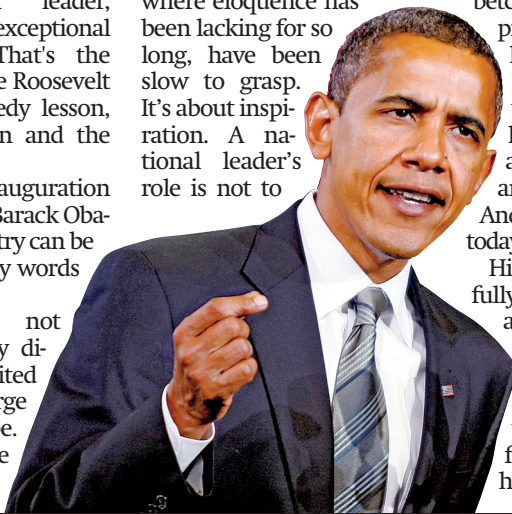
And today, inauguration day, it will be the Barack Obama lesson: A country can be moved as much by words as by deeds.

Obama may not change the policy direction of the United States to the large degree many hope. In recent weeks, he has sounded in-

creasingly moderate and mainstream. He appears to be seeking consensus rather than radical change.

His appointments are predominantly centrist types. His anti-war talk has dimmed. He's been all smiles around George W. Bush. He even declined an opportunity to repudiate the vile Dick Cheney.

But he's proving something that leaders in Canada, where eloquence has been lacking for so long, have been slow to grasp. It's about inspiration. A national leader's role is not to



United States Presidential Inauguration

be one of the boys. It is to project something higher than the mundane. It is to uplift the country's conscience.

George Junior's frat-boy talk was hardly suited for the greatest power on earth. Sarah Palin's low-brow "you betcha" schtick was OK at a pizza banquet for the local hockey team. But for a leader of the Western world, forget it. Take a hike George, Sarah, Dick and y'all. Visit a dictionary. Look up eloquence. And listen to Barack Obama today.

His historic oration hopefully will mark a turning away from a chapter in American history when it's been cool to be dense, when if you were seeking political office you were advised to hide your Ivy League edu-

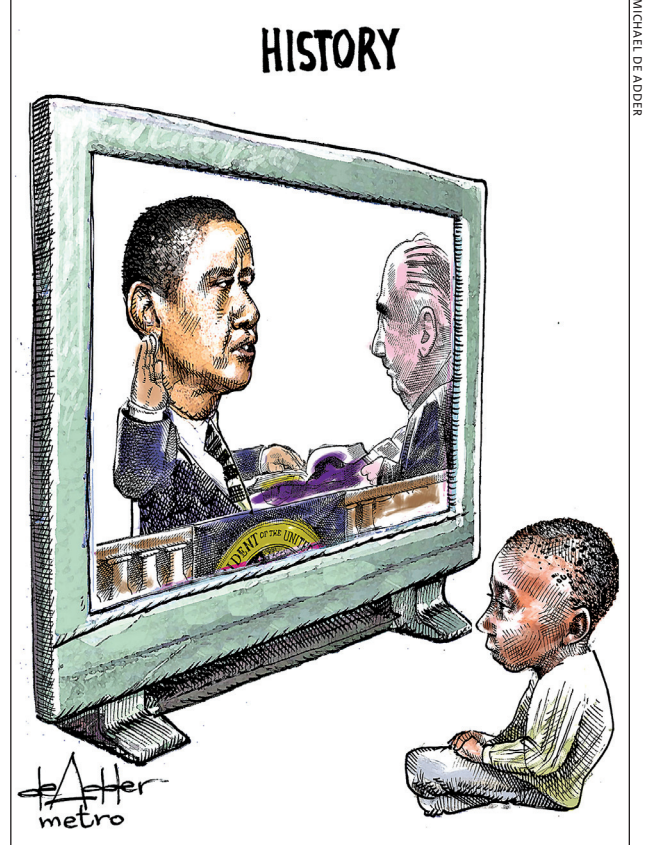
cation. It's been a period — frequently referred to as the dumbing-down era — when to be erudite was decried as being elitist.

John F. Kennedy isn't remembered so much for what he did as for the style and the inspiration he brought. In the case of Pierre Trudeau, it's much the same. Each leader was seen as standing up for something higher. Each leader had his share of deficiencies, but Kennedy revitalized his country and so did, at least in his early years at the helm, Trudeau.

They weren't chasing after the lowest common denominator. They weren't mingling religion with politics. They weren't preying on people's base instincts.

That's the way down. Today, as the United States brings forward a beacon of inspiration, it's on the way to reversing that spiral.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



Worth mentioning

Hooping: From child's play to must-have fitness tool

Hula Hoops, those baby boomer toys that fired a worldwide craze in the 1950s, have come back as must-have fitness tools to strengthen the core and battle the love handle.

The hoop is an ancient toy, fashioned from dried grape vines in ancient Egypt and depicted on vases in fifth-century Athens.

But today's hoops are bigger, heavier, gaudier and more portable. And on the hips of 21st-century practitioners, "hooping" has morphed from child's play to low-impact workout, aerobic dance, and path to enlightenment.

"Hooping transformed my entire life," said Christabel Zamor, founder and CEO of HoopGirl Inc.

According to Zamor, contemporary hooping has evolved into hoop dance — a form of fitness, healing and meditation for adults of all ages and ability levels. She

said hooping is often called "the new yoga" because of its holistic and wellness benefits.

To Zamor, whose program has licensed more than 250 American Aerobics and Fitness Association-certified hoop dance teachers, contemporary hooping is all about fitness, self-esteem, and "getting your groove on."

"I was sedentary when I started hooping. But over time my body grew lean and my confidence soared," she said from her San Francisco headquarters.

The business of hooping in the 21st century is mainly a cottage industry of hoop teachers and hoop makers. But these entrepreneurs seem to agree that the newer, heavier, more efficient hoops are the key to the discipline's increasing popularity. **REUTERS**



Views

Middle East needs more Obama



Mona Eltahawy

Global View

I live in Harlem, New York City, which on election night was the centre of the universe. I have never seen people so happy.

Four days later, I went to the Axis of Evil, or at least that's how former (doesn't it feel good to say that!) U.S. president George W. Bush described Syria. And there in the Damascus market I bought a T-shirt that said simply "Obama." One line in Arabic. Another in English.

Two very different cities. One simple joy at the mere idea of Obama.

Three months later, I am back in the Middle East and there is little joy. But Obama isn't the reason the region is heartsick and wary. Rather, it

is the absence of an Obama in the region that has sucked all joy out of it.

This morning in Doha, Qatar, the main photo on the front page of one of the national dailies was of Palestinians in Gaza lifting the decomposing body of a man onto the back of a pickup truck.

I am writing this from Tel Aviv, Israel, where at the airport an Israeli friend told me she is finally smiling again because with the ceasefire in place, she no longer has to worry her son will be sent to Gaza to fight.

So, how do we become audaciously hopeful in the Mideast?

Forget our audaciously awful leaders — and when it comes to the Arab-Israeli con-

flikt they are evenly spread on both sides. Focus instead on young people, who form the majority in the region.

That's where U.S. President Barack Obama (doesn't it feel good to say that?) comes in.

The realist in me reminds the foolish optimist that Obama will be preoccupied with

the U.S. economy and won't be as focused on the Middle East as those of us from the region would wish. The poor man, trim and fit physique notwithstanding, must be weighed down by a burden of expectations from everyone.

But, he can be the leader the region lacks. He can be the leader that tells our young people — Arab, Israeli, Iranian and Kurdish, take your pick — "Yes you can!"

"The old leaders in the Middle East have stopped dreaming. That's a tragedy. Young people still dream."

Prof. Mira Tzoreff

A young Egyptian blogger I met in Doha told me that listening to Obama's acceptance speech he felt he was listening to the late Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, known for his mesmerizing presence. The latter died long before the blogger was born, but that's how far he must go back to point to an Arab leader with a charismatic ability to galvanize the public.

"The old leaders in the Middle East have stopped dreaming," Prof. Mira Tzoreff told me as she and her husband drove me to my hotel. "That's a tragedy. Young people still dream."

President Obama, you still dream. Talk to the young people here and tell them their dreams matter.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaleaders@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Russia and Ukraine signed a 10-year gas-supply deal yesterday, clearing the way to resume deliveries to Europe. Ukraine will buy Russian gas at a 20 per cent discount compared with European prices. The exact price was not disclosed. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Homeowners go cautiously green

HOMES Though demand for green products and services remains high in the downturn, big-ticket items are a harder sell.

Early adopters of green technologies are less affected because they tend to have higher disposable income, so the challenge is pushing pricier technologies into the mainstream.

Some companies are confident in the potential for growth, while others says customers are willing to pay to make an ecological statement.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

AUTOS Industry Minister Tony Clement said General Motors and Chrysler should wrap up talks with Ottawa on before the Feb. 20 "drop dead" date to agree to a bailout. **REUTERS**

No loan relief?

Chris McNeil says Canada's banks are making it tough for working folks to dig themselves out of debt.

The 34-year-old administrative assistant finds it "troubling" banks only cut their prime rates to 3.5 per cent from four per cent last month, even as the Bank of Canada slashed its rate by 75 basis points to 1.5 per cent. And he worries banks may hold back again today.

The Canadian Bankers Association has recently argued that banks' total costs of borrowing have not fallen as far as the Bank of Canada's rate. The overnight rate is just part of banks' total funding mix.

Some economists suggest consumers may not see substantial relief in borrowing costs soon. While most expect the Bank of Canada to cut its

"My suspicion is that (banks) will pass only part of (the rate cut) along to borrowers."

Erin Weir

overnight rate again today, not everyone is convinced that commercial banks will pass on the full savings this time around.

"My suspicion is that they will pass only part of it along to borrowers," said Erin Weir, an economist with the United Steelworkers union.

Beata Caranci, director of economic forecasting at TD Bank, argued that lending risk was higher as consumers lose jobs and the economy threatens businesses. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

What Obama can do for Canada



Charles Davies
News Analysis

If his recent statements are any guide, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama will boldly confront America's economic plight in his inaugural address today. He'll stress the urgency of a stimulus package (roughly \$775 billion US, but potentially more than \$1 trillion US).

Canadians will listen as closely as Americans, since 80 per cent of our exports, and one in five of our jobs, depend on the U.S. economy. Anything Obama does to stimulate the U.S. economy will be good for us, but the measures will affect us in small doses over a long

United States Presidential Inauguration

period, and there could be complications.

Anywhere from \$270 billion US to \$310 billion US of the Obama stimulus package will come from lower taxes for individuals and businesses. If people spend the extra cash, that will benefit Canadian exporters of everything from cars to forest products. If businesses use their refunds to expand and hire workers, that indirectly benefits us, too.

But if individuals save their refunds, that money will have to be funneled through a newly risk-averse financial system before it has any effect. And if businesses use their refunds defensively — reducing debt

— their prudence will actually slow a broader recovery that would help Canada.

Benefits from Obama's broad but unspecified plans for infrastructure development are cloudy — though under the North American Free Trade Agreement, Canadian companies could conceivably win a share of the \$136 billion US of public projects said to be "shovel-ready."

Of course, NAFTA itself may be up for renegotiation if U.S. protectionist elements get their way, and stricter border regulations would slow trade. Stimulus package or not, Canadians should get ready for a long and bumpy ride.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.

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travellers

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business 9

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Words from the moneywise

SmartCookies



smartcookies.com

When we made the decision to get our financial lives in order, the first thing we did was spend hundreds of dollars on money guides. Sound crazy? It was. So to save you from this mistake, we've compiled a list of our favourites. Now of course, the No. 1 must-have is Smart Cookies' Guide to Making More Dough (wink, wink), but here are our top picks.

Andrea's Pick:

Suze Orman's 2009 Action Plan, by Suze Orman

Suze Orman is known for her no-nonsense smack-down style, and this book is no exception. 2009 Action

Plan, is a simple, step-by-step guide on how to get back on track and into financial shape if you've fallen off the wagon due to the present economic disaster. Plus, it's half the price of a regular financial book in book stores.

Sandra's Pick:

Make Money Not Excuses, by Jean Chatzky

Prior to becoming Smart Cookies, we had excuse after excuse as to why we just couldn't save, invest, or make more dough. After reading this book we realized that a: we weren't alone (the author even shares her own money mistakes!), and that b: confronting our money mishaps was the first step in reaching financial freedom. Plus, you'll love the simple solutions to your everyday money concerns.

Angela's Pick:

Smart Women Finish Rich, by David Bach

In the early days of our money group this was our guide (we even took part of the title to create our

name!) When reading this book, I started to think about my money not as a number in the bank or a source of stress but as a means to living my richest life (in all senses of the word.) It's a step-by-step guide to becoming a financially savvy and self-sufficient woman and every Smart Cookie should read Smart Women Finish Rich!

Katie's Pick:

Freakonomics, by Stephen Dubner and Steven Levitt

I am a sucker for a good storyteller. And a book that can analyze different socioeconomic phenomena in a humorous and engaging way will definitely earn my respect. Freakonomics examines what people will do to get what they want. And while it's not your typical financial how-to book, it does offer some great lessons on questioning the different financial incentives we encounter.

Robyn's Pick:

The Wealthy Barber, by

David Chilton

Although it's been 20 years since this book was first published, the core concepts continue to ring true. Chilton was certainly not the first to introduce the idea, however he certainly made it clear that paying yourself first is one of the fundamentals in living your richest life. As a book that has sold nearly three million copies, and is the best-selling Canadian book of all time, Chilton's concepts are definitely well respected within the financial field.

Tune in Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

What will get the market moving ahead in 2009? Read this week's column at metronews.ca



Apply online: www.icicibank.ca

No income, no taxes, right?

Q Last November, I received a request from Revenue Canada to file a tax return for 2004-07. In 2003, I was laid off from work; the payout was generous and I decided to start my own business. Currently, my income is derived from investment dividends and interest. Profits from the business are insignificant. My total income is less than the basic personal exemption. Therefore, I would owe no taxes. Many of my colleagues agree: I do not have to file a tax return, unless I owe taxes! How do I get them off my back? **Ali**

A Your age or marriage status isn't very clear, but it must be a challenge to live on income that you describe.

You're partially right: Individuals must file a tax return if taxes are owed.

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

However, there are many other circumstances that obligate you to file:

- CRA has made a request. This obligates you to file.
- An individual has disposed of property. Although you receive investment income less than the basic personal exemption, if you sold real estate, stocks, or owned mutual funds, gains may exist.
- If your profits from the business exceed \$3,500, you may have a CPP obligation.
- Repayments of RRSP HBP or LLPs.
- Repayments of OAS or employment.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

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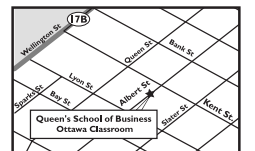


INFORMATION SESSIONS

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Ryan Dempster has bowed out of Team Canada for the World Baseball Classic. Fellow Cubs teammate and B.C. native Rich Harden was named on the 45-man provisional roster released yesterday, but shoulder concerns could put his participation in doubt. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sports

LeBron, Kobe toe to toe

LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers visited Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers last night for the first time this season. For a complete game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

Michael (Pinball) Clemons, arguably the most popular figure in Toronto's sports history, is likely out as the Argonauts' CEO, sources tell Metro.

Clemons, they say, might remain with the Argos in a front-office and/or ambassador capacity but his agent, Gil Scott, isn't sure. "I really don't know what's going on with Pinball," Scott said. "I can't get a straight answer."

Neither Clemons nor Argos co-owners Howard Sokolowski and David Cynamon could be reached by Metro yesterday. General

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

manager Adam Rita was contacted at the Senior Bowl in Alabama, where he is scouting, but his cell-phone disconnected after he was asked about Clemons and it went straight into voice mail the rest of the afternoon. While Clemons may be mulling over a non-executive offer from the Argos, the sources say ownership is close to hiring a new CEO.

Clemons, 44, became the Argos' head coach during the 2000 season after a legendary playing career in Toronto that started in 1989 and landed him in the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. He finished with a

coaching record of 68-55-1 and led the Argos to the Grey Cup championship in 2004. He was appointed CEO before the 2008 season and hired his defensive co-ordinator, Rich Stubler, as his head coaching successor. He also was responsible for acquiring quarterback Kerry Joseph, who was chosen the CFL's top player with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2007. Both Stubler and Joseph flopped. Clemons fired Stubler in mid-season and replaced him with Don Matthews, who went 0-8. The Argos finished 4-14 and out of the playoffs. Sokolowski and Cynamon, unhappy with Clemons' CEO performance, offered him the chance to return as head coach but he refused, sources said.

Last week, when the Argos hired ex-NFL assistant Bart Andrus, Clemons wasn't consulted and didn't attend the news conference that introduced the team's

newest head coach.

Rita, incidentally, tried to influence Andrus to hire longtime CFL coach Dave Ritchie as the Argos' defensive co-ordinator because of his Canadian experience, but sources suggest Andrus is choosing instead to hire a friend from the NFL.

One of Canada's premier sports columnists is retiring early.

William Houston, whose Truth and Rumours became must-read material after it launched in 1991, has accepted a buyout from The Globe and Mail and will write his final column next month.

"Bill ripped me a lot early in my career, but he made me better," CBC sports reporter Elliotte Friedman said. "He was fair."

From ex-TSN and Sportsnet anchor Jim Van Horne: "He made the media look over their shoulders and forced them to be honest."

Undermanned Raptors fall in Atlanta

NBA RESULT

Raptors 84 Hawks 87



Joe Johnson hit the game-winner with 12.5 seconds left as the Atlanta Hawks edged the Toronto Raptors 87-84 in Atlanta.

Chris Bosh logged 22 points and 14 boards and Andrea Bargnani gave 20 and 10 for the Raptors, who have lost a season-high six straight games.

Jamario Moon's three-pointer late in the game tied it up and Bosh's long jumper gave the Raptors an 80-78 lead with about four minutes left. Toronto squan-



Atlanta's Solomon Jones, left, battles with Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani yesterday.

dered its next two possessions and then Johnson hit a jumper with Moon in his face to give the Hawks an 87-84 lead with 12.5 seconds left to play.

"For the most part, we played pretty good," said Raptors head coach Jay Triano. "Our mental toughness has to get better, we have to be able to finish our possessions, quarters, halves and games." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Steelers by 7

The Pittsburgh Steelers have been established by oddsmakers as seven-point favourites over the Arizona Cardinals for the Super Bowl in Tampa Bay on Feb. 1.

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Sports in brief

NHL Claude Lemieux is back in the NHL after a 5½-year absence, joining the San Jose Sharks at age 43 in hopes of one more run at the Stanley Cup. Lemieux practised in San Jose and he's likely to play tonight in Vancouver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL SCOREBOARD

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 2 Toronto 0
Buffalo 3 Florida 2 (SO)
St. Louis 5 Boston 4 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 Dallas 2
Washington 2 N.Y. Islanders 1 (OT)
Minnesota at Chicago
New Jersey at Nashville

NBA SCOREBOARD

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 87 Toronto 84
Dallas 95 Philadelphia 93
Detroit 87 Memphis 79
Golden State 119 Washington 98
Houston 115 Denver 113
Minnesota 94 L.A. Clippers 86
New Orleans 103 Indiana 100
New York 102 Chicago 98
San Antonio 86 Charlotte 84
Boston 104 Phoenix 87
Milwaukee at Portland
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers



Alex Ovechkin celebrates his OT goal against the Isles.

Ovechkin beats Isles himself

NHL RESULTS

Alexander Ovechkin scored twice, including the game-winner with 3:14 left in overtime as the Washington Capitals edged the New York Islanders, 2-1 yesterday.

Sergei Fedorov skated the puck into the New York end and slammed on the brakes at the right circle.

He fed a short pass over to Alexander Semin, who skated to the low right side and fed the puck out front for Ovechkin, who one-timed the puck home for his league-leading 31st goal of the season.

BLUES 5, BRUINS 4

T.J. Oshie scored the game-winner in the shootout as the St. Louis Blues rallied late for an improbable 5-4 win over the Boston Bruins.

With regulation time winding down and shortly after a St. Louis skater blocked a shot on the empty net at the other end, Keith Tkachuk threw a shot on net that Tim Thomas stopped, but the rebound popped straight up and David Backes whacked it in just before time expired. The goal was reviewed to see if Backes hit it in with a high stick, but the goal was allowed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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**11**

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Intelligence linked to sperm count

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

You may think it's the potential for brilliant conversation that makes intelligence such an attractive trait in a man but it may be that his intellect is a sign of something else: According to researchers, smart guys have higher sperm counts.

The researchers at King's College London, the University of Delaware and the University of New Mexico

compared results from intelligence tests given to 425 guys aged 31 to 44. The men also provided sperm samples and upon analysis, the researchers found the men who scored higher on the intelligence test not only had more sperm per milliliter, but their sperm were also better swimmers.

Previous theories believed that highly intelligent men might score less stressful jobs and make better lifestyle choices, resulting in better health and healthier sperm. But, according to the researchers in this study, even the smart guys with poor health had higher sperm counts, causing them to speculate that indicators of intelligence and good sperm may ride in on the same gene float.

But before all you less-than-brilliant lads get down on your little swimmers, take heart in the fact that semen has some other neat tricks up its sleeve besides delivering super sperm. For example, there is evidence that semen can make a girl happy, and not in ways you might think.

Researchers have found that women who regularly had unprotected sex with their partner were less depressed than women who regularly used a condom. Having ruled out other explanations, they think this is because mood-altering hor-

mones in semen are absorbed through the vagina.

Of course, before you go having unprotected sex as a mood enhancer, it goes without saying that an unwanted pregnancy or an STD would no doubt put a damper on your natural high.

And while the health and vitality of a man's sperm may be a going concern (especially if he's trying to have kids), seminal fluid is much more than a spermatozoa carrier. In fact, sperm makes up only about one per cent of its contents. The rest is a complex mix of over 300 components, among them

According to the researchers in this study, even the smart guys with poor health had higher sperm counts.



A recent study showed that men who scored higher on an intelligence test had more sperm per milliliter.

proteins, enzymes, zinc, and fructose and changes in colour, smell, taste or texture may be indicators of health problems, such as prostate infection or other plumbing problems.

So, even if your little tad-

poles aren't the best swimmers, it's still important to monitor the quality of the pool water.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

In brief

GAMING Playing the video game Tetris immediately after traumatic events appears to reduce flashbacks that plague sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a British study. The preliminary findings could lead to new treatments to prevent or cut flashbacks that are a hallmark of the condition, also known as PTSD, Oxford University researchers said.

TRANSPLANTS Younger women have equal access to kidney transplants compared with their male counterparts, but older women receive kidney transplants much less frequently than older men, new research shows. **REUTERS**

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MAKE SURE YOUR MOUTH SMELLS SWEET

Do you ever notice how some people look like they just know how to make sure they appear to be perfectly groomed? Their hair is meticulously combed in place. Clothes and accessories are impeccably matched. They even wear just the right amount of perfume or cologne.

Yet when you lean in close to them, you notice an unpleasant odour... the odour of bad breath!!!

Hopefully, nobody is saying that about you! If they are, we would like to assure you that you are not alone. Millions of North Americans suffer from bad breath. Many of them brush regularly, take care of themselves and are well groomed.

So why is it you cannot get rid of bad breath? Breath mints or candies might provide a temporary solution by masking the symptoms. However, they do nothing to solve the problem.

For most people, the problem is poor dental hygiene that allows trapped food and bacteria to build up in the mouth...even for those who brush regularly.

If that is the case, the first thing to do is visit your dentist to get rid of

the immediate problem. A proper cleaning will remove any build-up of food and bacteria.

The challenge is to make sure you keep that clean, fresh breath until your next visit to the dentist. Don't be afraid to discuss this problem openly with him/her.

Perhaps your brushing technique needs to be improved. A simple alteration may better enable you to reach the places food and bacteria hide.

If you are forgetting to floss or not flossing properly, you may be leaving unwanted germs and bacteria behind. Ask your dentist to show you how to floss properly.

Some people are unaware how much bacteria can build up on their cheeks or tongues. Make sure your toothbrush is equipped with a tongue and cheek cleaner. If necessary, ask your dentist where to find one and how to use it. (By the way, bacteria build up, and bad breath, are big problems for people with pierced tongues or cheeks!)

People with braces, partial dentures or fixed bridges can be prone to bad breath. These devices can trap food. Make sure you get your dentist to show you proper cleaning techniques for these devices.

Sometimes, **bad breath may be a symptom of other medical problems.** That is a matter you need to discuss with your medical doctor.

However, for most people, bad breath has a simple cure...one which can easily be solved by your dentist. It may take nothing more than a proper cleaning...because cleaning your mouth properly is a healthy habit...and healthier habits lead to healthier lives.

Dr. George Parry - Dental Surgeon

Settling into his 15-month stint in a north London prison, Boy George has already landed a job behind bars. The flamboyant singer — who was convicted of falsely imprisoning a male escort — is working in the prison canteen serving food to other inmates, according to South Africa's News 24. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Serve 'em up, George

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

And the winner isn't...

Katy Perry was accidentally presented with the best international song award at France's NRJ Awards in Cannes. The award should have been presented to Rihanna, the BBC reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nova Scotia town is next to lose its women

JON TATTIE
for Metro Canada



When the women left Tatamagouche, N.S., Jimmy LeFresne watched with foreboding. "Once the buses were gone, it was silence, like a void. There was no jumping for joy. Then it kicked in: 'They're gone, so now what?'"

LeFresne, 50, owns the north-shore town's Train Station Inn; he's also the elected councillor. When CBC TV's *The Week the Women Went* whisked the sleepy community's ladies away to a luxury hotel,

they took his staff with them.

"I had to tell the men of the community, 'I need help here!'" he laughs. "I had another councillor come over, I had the local RCMP cooking meals. It was quite something. Some coped very well and some ... struggled, we'll say."

Like many in the 700-person town, LeFresne had a microphone on at all hours. "You tried to be on your best behaviour, but there are times when things just fall about. All of a sudden, you've done

something and you think, 'Oh my land, it's on film.'"

He hopes the program will show people Tatamagouche is not the dying East Coast community of stereotypes.

"We're far from that. If a wrench is thrown into the mix, we deal with it," he said. "If you talk to anybody in our community, we don't think it's a slow pace, because we're going full-tilt all the time."

Asked how he thought a *Week the Men Went* would go, LeFresne burst out laughing. "I think (the women) would notice.

On TV

• Season Two of *The Week the Women Went* starts at 8 p.m. tomorrow on CBC TV.

There's two sides to the story."

Cal Shumiatcher, the executive producer, says he wanted a "romantic" location in the Maritimes.

"Tata just shone — we had so much fun," he explains from his Vancouver office. "It's wonderful when people open up their lives and show you what they're about."



The women of Tatamagouche, N.S. brave a storm as they leave town for a week of pampering.

CBC-TV

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Cruise says he 'always wanted to kill Hitler'

FILM Tom Cruise, who fails to assassinate Adolf Hitler in his new movie *Valkyrie*, said he grew up wanting to kill the Nazi leader. In the Second World War thriller based on a true story of the unsuccessful attempt by German soldiers to kill Hitler, Cruise plays an officer who plants a bomb at Hitler's military headquarters. "I always wanted to kill Hitler, I hated him," the star said during a visit to Seoul to promote the film. "As a child studying history and looking at documents, I wondered, 'Why didn't someone stand up and try to stop it?'" **REUTERS**

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Wild Things

Christina Aguilera and husband Jordan Bratman threw a Where the Wild Things Are-themed party Saturday afternoon to celebrate the first birthday of son Max, who turned one last week. **PEOPLE.COM**



Nickel Eye's solo Strokes

Bass player mines inspirational roadtrip on new album

Nikolai Fraiture has come a long way since he dropped out of college at 19 to travel, Jack Kerouac style, across America. But on The Strokes bassist's debut album he decided to venture back 11 years and mine those heady days for material.

"It was a very interesting time," says Fraiture, who plays under the name Nickel Eye when he's not slapping bass strings with his other band. "It was not what I expected from my young, ideal dreams; I was pretty disillusioned."

Although the trip was more than a decade ago, Fraiture managed to find old notebooks filled with his writings. "They were in a shoebox," he says. "I went through them for inspiration and the majority of words came from that." While he might have had the lyrical foundation for his tunes, writing music on his own for the first time was an eye-opening experience.

Until penning tracks for



The Time of the Assassins, the debut solo disc from Strokes bassist Nikolai Fraiture, will be available in stores and online next week.

his new record, The Time of the Assassins, he'd only concentrate on adding bass to The Strokes' songs. Now he was forced to look at the big picture. "This experience really helped me understand what everyone else is doing," he explains. "Before, I could push my part at the sake of a song. But I've

learned different things and I see them from a different point of view now." Fraiture admits that his new disc is a "challenging listen all around," but in reality it's not too far off from what a toned down Strokes album might sound like. His voice is oddly similar to Julian Casablancas', though he

mumbles a lot more and the music is nearly as infectious and passionate — minus the distortion — as his other group's tunes. So, if the music's not that far off from what he plays in his day job, why's he releasing his own batch of tunes? "We had a lot of time off with The Strokes," he says. (The fivesome's last album was released in 2006.) "And I couldn't wait around any longer." After a year and a half of writing, he found himself with an album. But after all that work, it's unlikely he will have a lot of time to promote it — The Strokes are finally going back into the studio in February. Nickel Eye's not upset though, for him The Strokes is still his top priority. "I can't speak for everyone, but for me, I definitely want to be in this band. When you're on tour for so long everything becomes the same. We just needed to re-group."

Trek to host search for new PM

CASTING Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek will moonlight on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. as host of the reality competition series Canada's Next Prime Minister.

The Ontario native, who got his start at the public broadcaster, will share the stage March 18 with three former prime ministers as they field pitches from four would-be politicians before choosing a winner. Last month, the CBC got into hot water after admitting to breaking contestant recruitment rules and contacting political organizations to invite young former political candidates to compete on the series.

REUTERS

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primetime	1/20/09	265	353	2	TVO	Undersea Expl.	Parks	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	The Street	Wipe Out		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS (HDTV)	90210 "By Accident" (N)	Kitchen Nightmares		News (N)
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		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Cold Case	Law & Order "Darkness"	Without a Trace		News (N)
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		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	CBC News: The National		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Biggest Loser (N)	Wild Roses (HDTV) (N)	Dateline NBC (Live)		News (N)
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		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser (N)		Ruby	Kimora: Fab	News (N)
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		554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad
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		551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
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		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Killer Date"	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 "Blackout"		Manhunters	Manhunters	The Beast
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers
		521	560	34	TLC	On the Road With 16 Children	16 Children and Moving In	Raising 16 Children		17 Kids and Counting		16 Children
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		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits	Mutant X	Testees	Trailer Park	House "Maternity"		House
		620	523	40	BVO	Road to Baleya	Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Ferron: Girl on a Road		Freddie Mercury		Law & Order
		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)	How It's Made	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Daily Planet
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		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist
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		618	524	54	TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
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		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote	Bless-Father	On the Buses		Quantum Leap		Faith in the White House
		602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Extreme Celebrity Love Splits		Style by Jury		Style by Jury
		269	350	70	APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides	Fish Out	Mixed Blessing	Caution: Nuts
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		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Good Eats
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critics'corner

Wild Roses

The rivalry between the McGregors and the Henrys comes to the rodeo ring in this new episode. David learns that the daughter of a prospective supplier is entering a rodeo in which Kate is competing, and he asks his bull-riding son, Peter to train the young woman — bad news for Kate in "Friends and Rivals." 9 PM on 8 CBC



NCIS

In this encore of the sixth-season premiere, Gibbs, still puzzled over Vance's decision to disband his team, is startled to discover it's connected to the murder of a naval petty officer in "Last Man Standing." 8 PM on 13 CBS, 3 GTV

Dreams of Obama

On the day that the United States inaugurates its 44th president — and its very first black president — this new documentary revisits Barack Obama's personal life and political achievements to date. Law-school classmates and associates from his days in Chicago politics are among those sharing their insights. 10 PM on 26 NW

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Usmagazine.com is reporting Jessica Simpson will be a newlywed again. "An engagement is on the way," a source says in the new issue of Us Weekly. Simpson and her football beau, Tony Romo, are "getting there — and they will announce it when it happens." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse good for St. Lucia, minister says

TOURISM Amy Winehouse has won an important fan in St. Lucia — the tourism minister, ananova.com reports. Allen Chastanet has praised the singer for bringing publicity to the Caribbean island.

While local reports have concentrated on the darker side of Winehouse's antics, it seems every picture of her smiling or mixing with the locals is a boost for the island, the website says.

Winehouse arrived in St. Lucia in December to stay at the luxury Le Sport re-

sort and local media have been following her around ever since. They have accused her of everything from throwing a drink on a tourist to being sick at breakfast.

But Chastanet disagrees and says his government has sent her a gift basket of local goods to thank her for the publicity.

In a competitive world, he said, "Any edge that you can get, you hang on to it."

The singer's rocky marriage and prob-



lems with drugs have been widely reported and it is believed she went to the island to help her recovery.

Winehouse has said that going to St. Lucia "has changed everything." She says

she's getting loads of exercise, eating brilliantly and has been able to relax.

The singer's husband Blake Fielder-Civil, who has been in and out of prison in recent months, filed for divorce from jail after seeing pictures of his wife with another man on the island.

St. Lucia can look forward to more publicity — with the troubled star saying she is having such a good time, she has no plans yet to return to the U.K.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heche confirms it's a baby boy

PREGNANT Anne Heche is having a baby boy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Nip/Tuck star has confirmed she is expecting a son with her partner, Nova Scotia native James Tupper, and is very excited by the news.

Heche — who has six-year-old son Homer from a previous relationship — sparked rumours about the sex of the baby earlier this month when she apparently couldn't keep the news under wraps.

A source said: "She told people she was having a boy. They were so excited to be picking things out for

a little boy."

Heche met actor Tupper on the set of her TV show

Men In Trees in 2006

when she was still married to ex-husband Coleman Laffoon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Road's 'twisted family'

ON SET Leonardo DiCaprio says starring in Revolutionary Road was like being in a "weird, twisted family," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 34-year-old actor — who reunited with Titanic co-star Kate Winslet in the new drama — insists filming love scenes with Kate felt "completely natural and comfortable," even though the actress' husband Sam Mendes directed the film.

Leonardo added Kate —

who won a Golden Globe Award for her role in the film — is no different from when they first worked together.

"She has not changed at all. She's one of the most real people I've ever met



and such a great friend. We've been support mechanisms for each other for a long period of time and will continue to be," he said.

Leonardo added both he and Kate are more "experienced" since they first appeared on the big screen together, which he believes helped them give such strong performances in Revolutionary Road.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kelly arrested for alleged assault

CHARGES Turns out Kelly Osbourne was arrested earlier this month — for an incident that occurred in August. According to Sky Showbiz, British gossip columnist Zoe Griffin finally got around to pressing charges against Osbourne for assaulting her last summer. Griffin had raised Osbourne's ire by publicly ridiculing Osbourne's 19-year-old fashion model fiancé, Luke Worrall, for being a bit of a dim bulb — Griffin had written that Worrall admitted he didn't know what an earthquake was. Osbourne is out on bail pending a March court date, according to London police. Her rep had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Thurman's little yoga surprise

FLIGHT Uma Thurman stunned passengers by doing a yoga routine on a recent flight, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Hollywood star was travelling from New York's JFK Airport to Utah's Salt Lake City when she left her seat and began bending and stretching in front of shocked on-lookers, the website says.

A source told the New York Post newspaper: "Uma started doing yoga in the aisles. She used the flight-attendant station as a ballet barre, where she stretched and did plies for 20 minutes."

Most travellers

politely looked in another direction and put Thurman's antics down to a stringent fitness regime.

However, they were surprised to see the health-conscious 38-year-old star race off the plane when it landed and immediately light up a cigarette.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Snoop asks Madge, Becks for visa help

FRIENDS Snoop Dogg has reportedly begged Sir Paul McCartney and Madonna to help him get into the U.K., femalefirst.co.uk says.

The rap star — who has also called on soccer ace David Beckham to back his cause — wants his A-list friends to write to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to insist he is granted a visa.

Snoop was arrested at London's Heathrow airport in April 2006 after his entourage vandalized a whiskey shop and attacked seven police officers when they were turned away from the first-

class lounge.

Snoop said: "I love London and I'm desperate to come back. I've called David Beckham, Sir Paul McCartney — hell, I want to get the whole of the Beatles to help me get back in."

"I'm trying to get through to Madonna as well. I'd love them all to write to the prime minister to change his mind."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Knoxville accused of carrying fake grenade

AIRPORT TV prankster Johnny Knoxville was detained for allegedly bringing a fake grenade into an airport. Security screeners at Los Angeles International Airport detected the grenade in the Jackass star's hand luggage, ananova.com reports.

It was investigated by a bomb squad who found it did not have a firing pin or explosives. Knoxville told police that the grenade was a prop he forgot to remove from his bag, airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles said.

The 38-year-old, whose

real name is Philip John Clapp, was later released and allowed to board an American Airlines flight to Miami, the website adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Heidi, hubby go with Obama flow

COUPLE She may have given a very high-profile endorsement to John McCain during his 2008 presidential campaign, but Heidi Montag knows which way the political winds blow. The MTV reality star was spotted by TMZ out for a bike ride in Los Angeles with husband Spencer Pratt over the weekend — both sporting Barack Obama T-shirts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



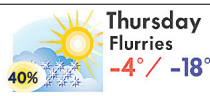
Carrey parties with 50 Cent

BIRTHDAY While partying in Utah for the Sundance Film Festival, Jim Carrey got a very special birthday serenade from 50 Cent. The rapper invited the actor up on stage for a rendition of '50s hit It's Your Birthday, during which Carrey, whose 47th birthday was Saturday, reportedly showed off some impressive dancing skills.

"Jim was lip-synching and bumping and grinding," a source told the New York Daily News. "It was pandemonium in the best way." Chris Rock also joined the rapper onstage at one point.

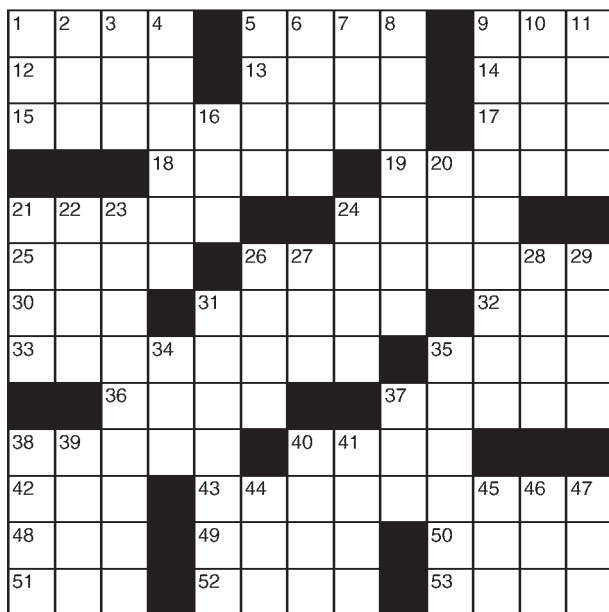
METRO NEWS SERVICES





For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five



Crossword across

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Pleased | 31 Adolescents |
| 5 Low voice | 32 Exist |
| 9 Comedy's DeLuise | 33 Maryland city |
| 12 Highly rated | 35 Talking bird |
| 13 Friend | 36 Family member |
| 14 Raw rock | 37 "Star Wars" weapon |
| 15 Dangerous fish | 38 Sounded like a crow |
| 17 Oscar Wilde's sine qua non | 40 Scratched (out) |
| 18 Charged bits | 42 Literary collection |
| 19 Valentino's dance | 43 1987 Woody Allen film |
| 21 Chocolate source | 48 Eddie of vaudeville |
| 24 Beatles movie | 49 Wading bird |
| 25 Money of Iran | 50 Duel tool |
| 26 Squashed with the feet | 51 Type measures |
| 30 Egos' counterparts | 52 Reply to "Shall we?" |
| | 53 Whatever remains |

Crossword down

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Petrol | 21 Home, in today's jargon | 39 Any time now |
| 2 Parcel of land | 22 Staffer | 40 Redact |
| 3 Blackbird | 23 Gilligan and his companions | 41 Part of SWAK |
| 4 No | 24 Mandlikova of tennis | 44 Honest politician? |
| 5 Hoedown venue | 26 Criterion | 45 Mimic |
| 6 "Sad to tell, ..." | 27 Roulette bet | 46 "Of course" |
| 7 Crafty | 28 Sea eagle | 47 Prepared |
| 8 Methods | 29 Letter opener | |
| 9 Makes less important | 31 Ivy attachment | |
| 10 First (Abbr.) | 34 Coloration | |
| 11 "Take — your leader" | 35 More irate | |
| 16 Sticky stuff | 37 Zodiac feline | |
| 20 Matterhorn, for one | 38 Eatery | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



9	3	5	7	4	1	2	6	8
7	6	4	3	2	8	5	9	1
2	8	1	5	6	9	3	4	7
3	1	7	6	9	2	4	8	5
5	9	8	4	1	3	7	2	6
4	2	6	8	5	7	9	1	3
1	5	2	9	7	6	8	3	4
6	7	3	2	8	4	1	5	9
8	4	9	1	3	5	6	7	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Cheesy Chickpea Enchiladas

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium red onion
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) corn oil
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 small red chili pepper
- 1 lb (500 g) tomatoes
- 1 can (19 oz / 540 ml) chickpeas
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
- Salt and black pepper
- 1/4 lb (125 g) old Cheddar cheese
- 1 small iceberg lettuce
- 4 soft flour tortillas, 7-8 in. (18-20 cm) in diameter

TO SERVE:

Thick natural yogourt or sour cream and sprigs of coriander as garnish

METHOD:

- Preheat grill to high. Peel and thinly slice onion. Heat corn oil in frying pan and fry sliced onion over fairly high heat, stirring, until softened and lightly browned.
- Peel and crush garlic, then rinse, deseed and slice chili pepper. Rinse and chop tomatoes. Drain

and rinse chickpeas.
3. Stir cumin into onion, then add garlic, chili pepper, tomatoes and chickpeas. Cook them over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, 5-8 minutes, until most liquid has evaporated, then season.
4. Coarsely grate cheese. Rinse and dry coriander and rinse, dry and shred lettuce.
5. Lay tortillas flat and divide lettuce among them. Spoon chickpea mixture down centre of each, fold sides over, and lay in oven-proof dish. Sprinkle with cheese and grill until melted.
6. Serve with yogourt or sour cream, garnished with coriander.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Cruel humour creates a bad situation. Put off making any decisions until tomorrow. A weird playmate will finally arrive.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A heart-to-heart talk enhances your chances. Good news becomes a factor in a decision. Don't laugh when someone's words ring true.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An impulsive eccentric has your best interest in mind. Trade your tales with a seeker. You can now ditch a stumbling block.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A surprising woman is overly emotional. A funny guy will thaw a cold heart. Your way of thinking about friendship is challenged.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Make apologies in order to comfort others. An unreasonable analyst develops empathy. News will come regarding an investigation.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Deep thinking reveals a little secret. Someone who lives in a peaceful place fascinates you. The time to improve relations is fading fast.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A self-righteous person will be unrewarded. You're forced to deal with excitement. Work secretly to help someone out.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A dimwit will force a confrontation. Someone is too lazy to help himself. A companion who cares about you will make sense.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your friendliness strengthens a relationship. Family issues develop into a setback. Details are more trouble than they're worth.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A team player will confess. Allow a thoughtful person to make a difficult decision. Don't get infuriated by an older person.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A sweetheart will cause confusion. Visit with friends who will ease your mind. A meeting is avoided by those who fear it.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A petty person's false accusations will stress you out. A tough guy is in a bind. A brooding man spares your feeling.

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